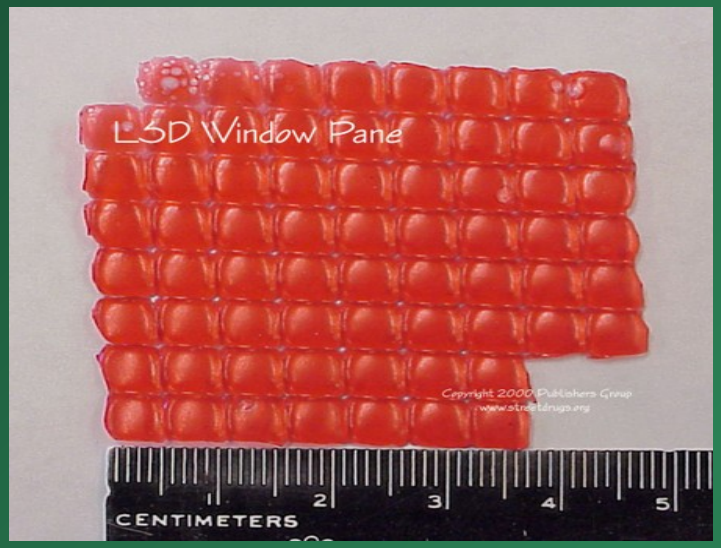
Hallucinogens

Learning Objectives

- Identify the different types of hallucinogens.
- Identify how hallucinogens effect the human body.

What are Hallucinogens?

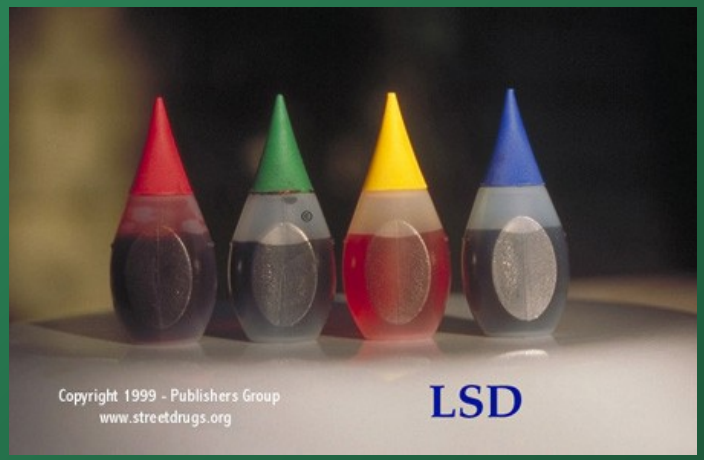


- A class of drugs that cause the user to experience hallucinations and alter reality.
- Hallucinogens are also known as *psychedelic* drugs.
- Hallucinogens can be both natural or synthetic drugs.
- Hallucinogens include LSD, Mescaline and Psilocybin and are sometimes associated with *club drugs* and *raves*.

LSD

What is LSD?

- LSD, or d-lysergic acid diethylamide, is a hallucinogenic derived from a parasitic fungus that grows on rye.
- LSD is produced as a crystal, then dissolved in alcohol prior to sale and consumption.
- LSD users describe their experience on the drug as a *trip*.



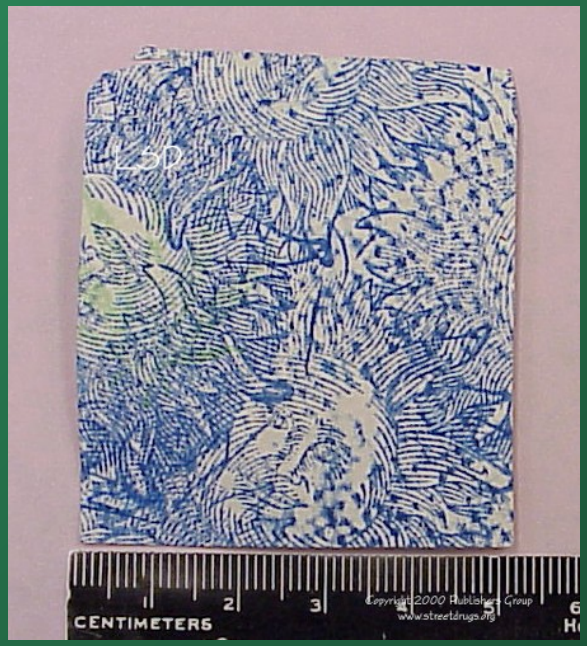
History of LSD

1938 – While researching blood stimulants, Albert Hoffman synthesizes LSD for the first time.

1943 – Albert Hoffman accidentally consumes LSD becoming the first person to consume LSD.

1949 – LSD, and its effects, are studied in Boston and Los Angeles.

1951 – The CIA becomes aware of LSD and begins to



History of LSD

1952 – The first study is published about treating depression with LSD

1962 – The FDA restricts LSD research & the first LSD related arrests are made.

1963 – LSD is found on the streets for the first time in the form of liquid on sugar cubes.

1967 – Federal government bans LSD in the United States

1970 – LSD is placed in Schedule 1 of the Controlled Substances

How is LSD Consumed?

LSD is generally taken orally in one of three ways:

- **Pill form**
- **On a piece of blotter paper**
- **Via liquid dripped onto a sugar cube or directly on the users tongue.**
- **Following ingestion, the drug's effects can be felt for 4-8 hours.**

LSD Testing in the Army

- LSD is difficult to test for in urine, even if testing occurs the day after ingestion.

- The Army tests for LSD on a rotational schedule.

Psilocybin

What is Psilocybin?

- **Psilocybin is a form of mushrooms that contain hallucinogenic properties.**
- **Also known as *magic mushrooms*, psilocybin is classified by the DEA as a Schedule 1 Controlled Substance.**
- **Hallucinogenic mushrooms have, historically, been used by several cultures during their religious rituals.**

How is Psilocybin Consumed?

- **Eaten – While the mushrooms are usually dried prior to sale and/or consumption, they can be eaten raw or cooked like regular mushrooms.**
- **Drank – Heated with water to make a tea or a soup.**
- **Smoked – The mushroom is ground into a fine powder and often smoked on top of marijuana**

Psilocybin Testing in the Army

- Psilocybin is detectable for 1-2 days following ingestion.
- The Army does not test for psilocybin on a regular basis.
- Special procedures MUST be followed during a test for psilocybin.
- Contact your local ASAP for assistance and guidance for psilocybin testing.

Mescaline

What is Mescaline?

- Mescaline is a psychedelic found in several species of cactus.
- Historically, the drug is dried and eaten in a ritual setting because of its hallucinogenic properties.
- Mescaline use was first witnessed in the 1800s where Native American tribes used mescaline during sacred ceremonies.
- In 1919 mescaline also

What is Mescaline?

- Generally, mescaline is a small button shaped cactus 2”-5” in diameter.
- Mescaline is not readily available for recreational use because it takes up to fifteen years for a single dose to mature.
- Mescaline is a Schedule 1 substance in the United States.

Mescaline Testing in the Army

- Mescaline is detectable for 1-2 days following ingestion.
- The Army does not test for mescaline on a regular basis.
- Contact your local ASAP for assistance and guidance for mescaline testing.

Effects of Hallucinogens

Physical Effects of Hallucinogens

- Dilated Pupils
- Increase Body Temperature
- Increased Heart Rate
- Increased Blood Pressure
- Extreme Sweating
- Loss of Appetite
- Sleeplessness
- Dry Mouth
- Body Tremors
- Nausea
- Loss of Motor Skills
- Loss of Coordination
- Seizures

Psychological Effects

- Vivid hallucinations
- Loss of depth perception
- Sensation of floating
- Loss of thought process control
- Fusion of the senses
- *Bad Trips*
- Distorted Perception of Time.

Hallucinogens and Flashbacks

- Flashbacks are a long term side effect of hallucinogens.
- Flashbacks are spontaneous, unpredictable recurrences of the effects of hallucinogens without ingestion of the drug.
- There are three types of flashbacks:
  - Emotional
  - Somatic
  - Perceptual

Additional Information

Additional information on PCP can be found by contacting the Army Substance Abuse Program or by visiting www.acsap.army.mil.

WARRIOR

Personal Courage: Possess the Personal Courage not to use drugs or abuse alcohol and to notify the Chain of Command of Soldiers that do.

Respect: Show your Respect to the Army, your unit, fellow Soldiers, and yourself by staying drug free and drinking responsibly.

Integrity: Stay true to the Army Values and Warrior Ethos by supporting the Army's drug and alcohol policies.

Duty: Do your duty as a Soldier and stay mentally and physically tough by not using drugs or abusing alcohol.

Excellence: Exhibit honorable behavior on and off duty - don't be a substance abuser!

USAG Hessen
ASAP Prevention Coordinators

- **Wiesbaden**
- **Christine Jones**
- ASAP Wiesbaden Army Airfield
- Building 1526
- Tel. 337-1710 Fax 337-5216

- **Baumholder**
- Michael Reed
- BHC, Wing 8744
- Tel. 485-1710 Fax 485-6204